

# Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

September 22, 2006

## Message From County Executive Walker

*Next week, I present my 2007 budget for Milwaukee County. Earlier in the year, we mentioned that our budget gap for 2007 was almost \$90 million. The rising costs of retirement benefits, health care plans, new federal accounting standards and state mandates are the major factors in the shortfall.*

*Recently, the Alliance for the Public Good released a budget proposal. This [link](#) provides a comprehensive review of the proposal. Many of the ideas are items previously discussed by our administration or things that we are considering for the 2007 budget. Others raise some serious concerns.*

*Similarly, a task force of the Greater Milwaukee Committee (GMC) presented a reform on Milwaukee County finances. Again, many of the ideas were similar to concepts we had pushed in the past. One of the biggest points raised in the GMC report relates to health care costs. While some push the county to adopt a plan similar to the City of Milwaukee, this would actually be more expensive.*

*The city plan provides incentives for the lowest cost plan that do not include a premium for employees. Moving to that type of a program would cost the county. The concepts forwarded in the GMC report, however, are similar to ideas that our administration has been working on for months (in fact, our folks worked with the staff that put together the health care parts of the report). Specifically, we would love to enact a contract that provides incentives for moving to the lowest cost health care plan.*

*The major barrier to enacting this type of a plan to lower health care costs is that any changes to the plan must be approved through the collective bargaining process.*

Continued on next column

Walker's message cont.

*I fully expect these health care strategies to be part of upcoming bargaining talks*

*While each of these two reports are interesting, the most important document will come out next Thursday - the actual budget. Once I give my budget address on the 28th and hand over the document to the board, they will have all October to work on their version of the 2007 budget. I already started discussions with county board leadership and I am hopeful that we can find some common ground for the good of the county.*

**Scott**

## Hispanic Photo Exhibit



In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Latino Historical Society held an event in the courthouse rotunda to view a photographic history of Latinos in Milwaukee. This was a great opportunity to experience Latino life in Milwaukee through these photographs and historical documents. October is Hispanic Heritage Month.

## Combined Giving Campaign Kicks Off



On Monday, County Executive Walker helped kick off the 2006 Combined Giving Campaign. Walker encourages everyone to participate in this campaign to help the United Way reach its campaign goal of \$40 million. Thank you to this year's Combined Giving Campaign Co-Chairs: Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs-Jones and Bob Dennik.

## Domes Celebrate 40th

On Friday, September 22 the public is invited to celebrate the Domes 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. Notable restaurants including Coast, Bartolotta's Lake Park Bistro, Pieces of Eight, the Pfister and Mia Famiglia will serve food from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Music by the popular Nick Contorno Trio will add to your dining enjoyment from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. The Nick Contorno Quintet picks up the tempo at 8:00pm with swing dance music until 11:00pm.

Children of all ages will enjoy the magic of Ron Fable. He will perform two shows at 7:00pm and 8:30pm. For anyone who enjoys a good laugh, Comedy Sportz will perform their show at 7:30pm with a second show at 9:00pm.

The Friends of the Domes will be selling raffle tickets for your chance to win valuable prizes. Admission is \$18.00 for adults, \$9.00 for ages 6-17. Children 5 and under are free. Free admission for Friends of the Domes members.

For more information: [www.countyparks.com](http://www.countyparks.com)

## Mitchell Airport Ranked #1 In Three Categories By Travel Magazine

Readers of *Conde Nast Traveler* ranked Milwaukee County's General Mitchell International Airport as best in the nation in the categories of Ease of Connections, Customs/Baggage and Safety/Security. Mitchell garnered the most first-place rankings in individual categories, and finished fifth overall among all U.S. airports. The ninth-annual Readers' Travel Awards appears in the magazine's October 2006 issue.

## Calendar of Events

### **DOMES 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

PLACE MITCHELL PARK DOMES  
DATE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22  
TIME 6:00PM – 11:00PM

[WWW.COUNTYPARKS.COM](http://WWW.COUNTYPARKS.COM)

### **BOERNER BOTANICAL GARDENS SCARECROW CONTEST**

PLACE BOERNER BOTANICAL GARDENS  
DATE SEPTEMBER 22-29

[WWW.BOERNERBOTANICALGARDENS.ORG](http://WWW.BOERNERBOTANICALGARDENS.ORG)

### **WALKER TO PRESENT 2007 COUNTY BUDGET**

PLACE COUNTY BOARD ROOM  
DATE SEPTEMBER 28  
TIME 9:30AM

[WWW.COUNTY.MILWAUKEE.GOV](http://WWW.COUNTY.MILWAUKEE.GOV)

### **ULTIMATE GOLF PACKAGE GIVEAWAY**

PLACE MILLER PARK  
DATE SEPTEMBER 23  
PLACE 4:00PM

[WWW.COUNTYPARKS.COM](http://WWW.COUNTYPARKS.COM)